

8. *Reports on the Marine Mollusca in the Collections of the South African Museum.* By J. R. LE B. TOMLIN, M.A.

(With One Text-figure.)

V. THE SCAPHOPODA.

Dentalium subterlineatum n. sp.

SHELL whitish, slender, fairly solid, opaque; strongly and regularly curved throughout, four-angled with more or less of a keel at each angle; lateral areas absolutely flat and smooth; area on the convex side almost smooth, but with some faint traces of longitudinal lineation; concave area marked throughout with distinct longitudinal raised lines, about 10 in number; apical opening almost circular; aperture oblique, quadrilateral, narrowing slightly but regularly from the concave to the convex face.

Length 14 mm.; diam. max. slightly over 1 mm. Hab. Cape Point N. 86° E. 43 miles, 900 fathoms, 2 examples (S.A. Mus., A 6192).

I am doubtful whether these are full grown, but they have such distinct characters that I do not hesitate to describe the species as new.

The nearest form, as far as I can discover, is *D. quadricostatum* Brazier from N.E. Australia, but that is more regularly quadrangular and is quite different in sculpture.

Dentalium strigatum Gould.

Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. vii, p. 166, Dec. 1859. False Bay.

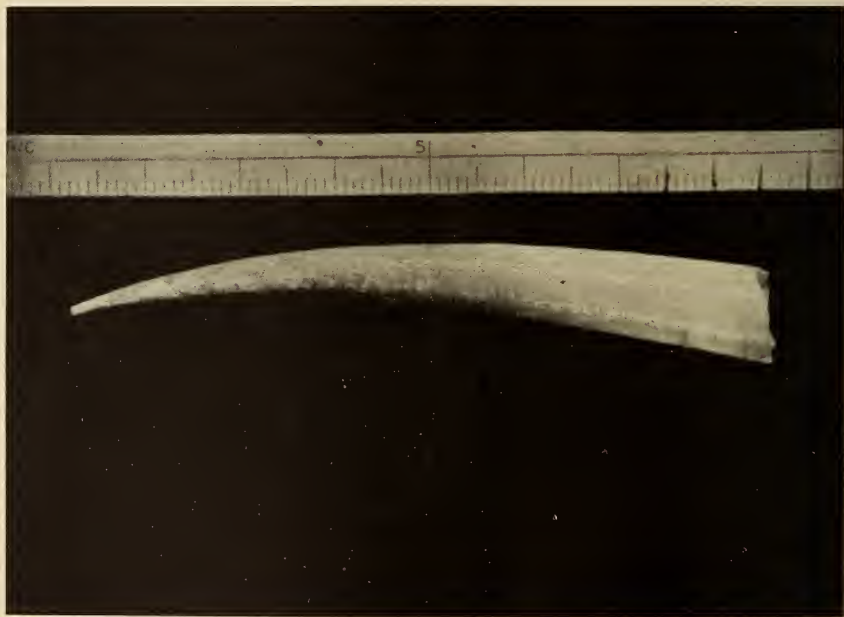
Dentalium belcheri Sowerby, Thes. Conch., iii, p. 101, pl. ccxiv, figs. 28, 29, 1860.

This seems to be the commonest and most widely distributed South African Scaphopod.

Pilsbry is almost certainly correct in assigning the *D. lessoni* Deshayes of Sowerby's "Marine Shells of South Africa," p. 48, to this species. The true *lessoni* of Deshayes came from New Guinea (Lesson).

A recent inspection of the types (3) of *D. belcheri* in the British Museum enables me to place this in the synonymy of *D. strigatum*. Sowerby (*l.c.*) gives the locality of *belcheri* as "E. Indian Archipelago," while the type tablet in the British Museum is labelled "Cape San Antonio" (in Yucatan)! Such a discrepancy is not uncommon in the case of specimens from the Mus. Cuming.

The South African Museum has specimens from Kentani and from 156 fathoms off Lion's Head (dead shells).



A. E. Salisbury, photo.

D. (Fissidentalium) salpinx n. sp.

Dentalium (Fissidentalium) salpinx n. sp.

Shell white, stout and solid, enlarging rapidly, moderately curved throughout its whole length; apex simple; sculpture consisting of about 29 rounded, somewhat flattened ribs, separated by impressed shallow grooves; the ribs become obsolescent towards the broad end over about one-fifth of the length of the shell; they are crossed at right angles throughout by very numerous, fine, close, irregular striae; aperture circular; apex very small with circular opening.

Length 75 mm.; diam. max. 10 mm.

Hab. Cape Point N.E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E. 40 miles, 700–800 fathoms (A 5459), several living.

This splendid species bears a good deal of resemblance to *D. candidum* Jeff. and to *D. ergasticum* Fischer, but may be readily separated by its more regular curvature, its larger aperture, and by the number and character of the ribs.

Dentalium (Fissidentalium) capillosum Jeffreys.

Dentalium capillosum Jeffreys, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) xix, p. 153, 1877. The name also occurs as a *nomen nudum* the year before, in Proc. Roy. Soc., xxv, pp. 185, 191, in the "Valorous" Report.

A single example, about 38 mm. long, dead but fresh and perfect, dredged off Cape Natal in 440 fathoms (S.A. Mus., A 3630). This has been carefully compared with "Challenger" shells from off San Miguel (1000 fathoms) of more or less the same size, and is absolutely identical.

D. capillosum has an extraordinarily wide range: I quote the following list of localities from Pilsbry and Sharp's monograph of the Scaphopoda:—

N. of the Hebrides in 542 fathoms; whole N. Atlantic in 208–1785 fathoms ("Valorous" and "Porcupine"); Bay of Biscay, 882 fathoms; coast of Portugal, 220–1095 fathoms; W. of Azores and off San Miguel, 1000 fathoms; Setubal, 470 fathoms; Bahia Honda, 418 fathoms; Culebra Is., 390 fathoms; Havana, 119 fathoms; Martinique, 169 fathoms; near Santa Lucia, 116 fathoms; Barbados, 100 fathoms.

Dentalium (Fissidentalium) platypleurum n. sp.

Shell yellowish white, thin, enlarging slowly; moderately curved at apical end for about a third of the length, the remainder much straighter; apex notched on the convex side; aperture circular, not oblique; sculpture consisting of 32 broad, flat, regular, longitudinal ribs, about twice the breadth of the interstices which separate them, and of numerous fine raised lines which cross interstices and ribs at right angles; these lines can only be detected on the ribs, at the apical end; they seem to have been entirely abraded on the lower two-thirds of the shell, and are only to be traced in the interstices.

Length 31 mm.; diam. max. 3.4 mm.

Hab. off Itongazi River, Natal, 25 fathoms, one live specimen (S.A. Mus., A 3631).

I cannot find any species to which this bears a particularly close

resemblance. The ribbing is remarkably close and regular. The shell has a pinkish tinge almost throughout, but this is due to its thinness and to the presence of the animal inside.

Dentalium (Compressidens) capense n. sp.

Shell whitish, strongly and evenly curved, much flattened, a distinct keel being thus formed on both convex and concave sides; there is also a similar keel on each of the lateral sides, rather nearer to the convex than to the concave keel, and in addition an angular line on either side of the convex keel—between it and the lateral keel; the shell is strongly marked with growth rings; aperture compressed oval, bluntly hexagonal; the apical orifice is imperfect.

Length 16 mm.; greatest diam. of aperture 1.9 mm., least 1.5.

Hab. Cape Point N. 86° E. 43 miles, 900 fathoms, one specimen (S.A. Mus., A 6191).

An interesting addition to the small group of *Compressidens* Pilsbry and Sharp. I believe that this is only the sixth known species: all come from very deep water, though *D. pressum* S. and P. (n. n. for Watson's *compressum* of the "Challenger" Report) was once dredged in 111 fathoms in the Gulf of Mexico.